



NEWS RELEASE

PRESS OFFICE

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SBA Proudly Announces Small Business Week Award Winners Across North & Central Florida

Jacksonville, Fla., -- The U.S. Small Business Administration's (SBA) North Florida District Office is pleased to announce the SBA's 2008 Small Business Week winners.

Each year for the past 42 years, the President has issued a proclamation declaring Small Business Week as a time for America to salute the achievements and contributions of the Nation's 25 million small businesses. The National Small Business Week Celebration will be held April 21-25 in Washington DC (for more information visit www.sba.gov). The SBA North Florida District Office is proud to celebrate the accomplishments of outstanding small business owners across North Florida.

"Anne V. Stokes, Ph.D., President and Principal of Southeastern Archeological Research, Inc. (SEARCH) has been named the 2008 Small Business Person of the Year for the SBA North Florida District. Ms. Stokes has grown SEARCH from a staff of three working on six projects per year out of her home and garage in 1993 to a staff of 40 working on 230 projects per year from five offices located in Florida and North Carolina," says Wilfredo J. Gonzalez, SBA District Director "Ms. Stokes demonstrates entrepreneurialism and true small business success everyday as an active participant in the U.S. Small Business Administration's 8(a) Business Development Program. Her consistent drive for success is apparent in the high rate of renewed contracts as well as her extremely high staff retention rate."

The SBA North Florida District Office is proud to honor two Regional Small Business Week Winners: C. Russell Slappey, Managing Partner of NPerspective, LLC of Winter Park Florida and Jose Sabatier, CEO of Zabatt, Inc. of Jacksonville. The Regional recognition means these individuals were selected as Small Business Week winners for the States of Florida, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee and Kentucky. Mr. Slappey has been named the 2008 Financial Champion of Year as Managing Partner of NPerspective, LLC (an organization of senior-level financial and accounting specialists) and Mr. Sabatier has been named the 2008 Jeffrey Butland Family-Owned Small Business of the Year as CEO of Zabatt, Inc. (a full-service generator company).

The list of winners follows. The North Florida District Office of the SBA provides customer-driven outreach, business services, and loan program management for 43 counties in North Florida.

2008 Small Business Person of the Year

Winner, North Florida District

Anne V. Stokes, Ph.D.

President & Principal

Southeastern Archeological Research, Inc. (SEARCH)
Orlando, Riverview, Jonesville and Shalimar, Florida

2008 Financial Services Champion of the Year

Winner, North Florida District, State of Florida & Regional

C. Russell Slappey, CPA

Managing Partner
Nperspective, LLC
Winter Park, Florida

2008 Minority Small Business Champion of the Year

Winner, North Florida District

Jacquelyn V. Perry

Manager
Beaver Street Enterprise Center
Jacksonville, Florida

2008 Women in Business Champion of the Year

Winner, North Florida District

Suzanne K. Lemen

CEO
Dynamic Corporate Solutions, Inc. & Idea Staffing
Orange Park, Florida

2008 Jeffrey Butland Family-Owned Business of the Year

Winner, North Florida District & Regional

Jose Sabatier

CEO
Zabatt, Inc.
Jacksonville, Florida

2008 SBA Young Entrepreneur of the Year

Winner, North Florida District

Christopher David Kennelly

President
Kennetic Productions, Inc.
Jacksonville, Florida

The 2008 Small Business Week Award Winners (and top SBA lenders) will be recognized at the 16th Annual Small Business Week & Lender Awards Celebration on May 1, 2008 in Jacksonville at the University of North Florida's University Center from 11:30 am to 1:30 pm. This event is hosted by the UNF Small Business Development Center. For more information on this award ceremony, please visit <http://www.sbdc.unf.edu/pdf/WebsiteInformationPage.pdf>. The

Small Business Development Center at UCF will recognize the Financial Champion of the Year, Russell Slappey at the upcoming Advisory Board Council Reception for Small Business Owners on Wednesday, April 23 in Orlando and he will officially receive his award at an SBDC event planned for early May. For award criteria or other program information, please call Lola Kress Naylor, (904) 443-1933, or e-mail lola.naylor@sba.gov. **Visit the agency Website at www.sba.gov.**

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